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HA-1113  
OLD FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING  
Havre de Grace, Md.

c. 1905

This very sophisticated little commercial building is built of blocks of rock faced Port Deposit granite. Its style influenced by the Romanesque and Renaissance Revival, the building is three bays and one story on the street front and two stories on a full basement at the rear. Unlike the banks of today, building, such as thus one were constructed to convey a message of strenght, solidarity and security which can be read in their fine workmanship and attention to detail.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Old First National Bank Building

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

319 St. John St.

CITY, TOWN

Havre de Grace

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Md.

COUNTY Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE <i>becoming a</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Arvid M. Scherpf

Telephone #: 939-2161

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Havre de Grace Marina, Water and Erie Sts.

CITY, TOWN

Havre de Grace

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Md. 21078**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Main St.

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Md.

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old first National Bank Building is located at 319 St. John St, in the middle of the block, facing west. It is a nearly square, three bay wide cut granite commercial building, which is one story on the st. elevation and drops off down hill to become two stories on a full basement at the rear. The building has a polygonal wing on the rear which has a polygonal bay on the south elvation and a three sided bay in the center of the rear. The bank was built in 1905 by an architect, perhaps William Plack, who was the architect for the Methodist Church (HA-1125) and the Citizen's Bank (now veneered) across the street. Built in the Renaissance Revival style, the building has features influenced by English Classicism as well, making it the most sophisticated in the Central Business District. The walls are of Port Deposit granite. On the front the stone has been carefully cut and matched in alternating bands of smooth faced and rusticated stone, the arrangement of granite blocks being the principle element of design on the facade. The rusticated ashlar granite on the flanks and rear is treated less formally.

Tall rectangular windows are on either side of the front entrance. Framed with smooth granite, their lintels have molded cornices and a decorated frieze. Square niches above the windows give the date for the founding of the bank-1885 and the date the building was erected-1905. Cast iron grilles, held within the window openings, are found in most of the windows in the building. The south elevation has a large round arched window flanked by pairs of smaller rectangular ones. A radiating pattern of stone work flush with the wall around the tops the windows is similar to that found around the entrance on the front elevation. Most of the windows on the wing are covered by vines.

The entrance to the bank is a round arched opening in the center bay, front elevation. The doors themselves are large double dooors studded with brass nail heads (presently painted red). A plastic sign covers the name of the bank above the door. A stained glass window, its radiating muntins carefully fitting into the total facade design is above ; it has a keystone projecting above it.

Both the main section and wing have hipped roofs, covered with terra cotta tiles and denticulated cornices of pressed copper. The main section has a glass skylight, granite chimney are on the two hipped roofs of the wing, the roof of the rear bay separating them. An ornamental copper pediment is in the center of the front of building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

NA-1113

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Original and sophisticated buildings such as this little cut granite bank add immeasurably to the appearance of any downtown area. Havre de Grace is indeed lucky to have this bank, a reminder of what expert workmanship and attention to detail-elements most often missing in modern construction- can produce.

According to an article for publication in the Harford Historical Bulletin by James Wollon the building is an adaptation of an English gate house or garden temple, and the street facade may have been taken from plates in Magnum in Parvo, a book of designs (1728) by William Halfpenny.

This building is the only one in Havre de Grace to show the influence of the Romanesque Revival as well as the Renaissance Revival styles. The Romanesque Revival, a Gothic Revival style in stone looked to early Medieval architecture for inspiration and was very popular in large cities throughout the last half of the 19th century; the later phase was characterized, as this building is, by round arched openings and rock faced masonry. There are several examples of vernacular Renaissance Revival architecture in Havre de Grace, HA 1180 and 1181, a style based on the architecture of ancient Rome.

The bank building, having a fine view out over the Susquehanna River, has recently been purchased. The new owners plan to use the old bank building as their residence, leaving the exterior and part of the interior unchanged.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

unpublished article in Harford Historical Bulletin-James Wollon

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marion Morton -Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE May, 77

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

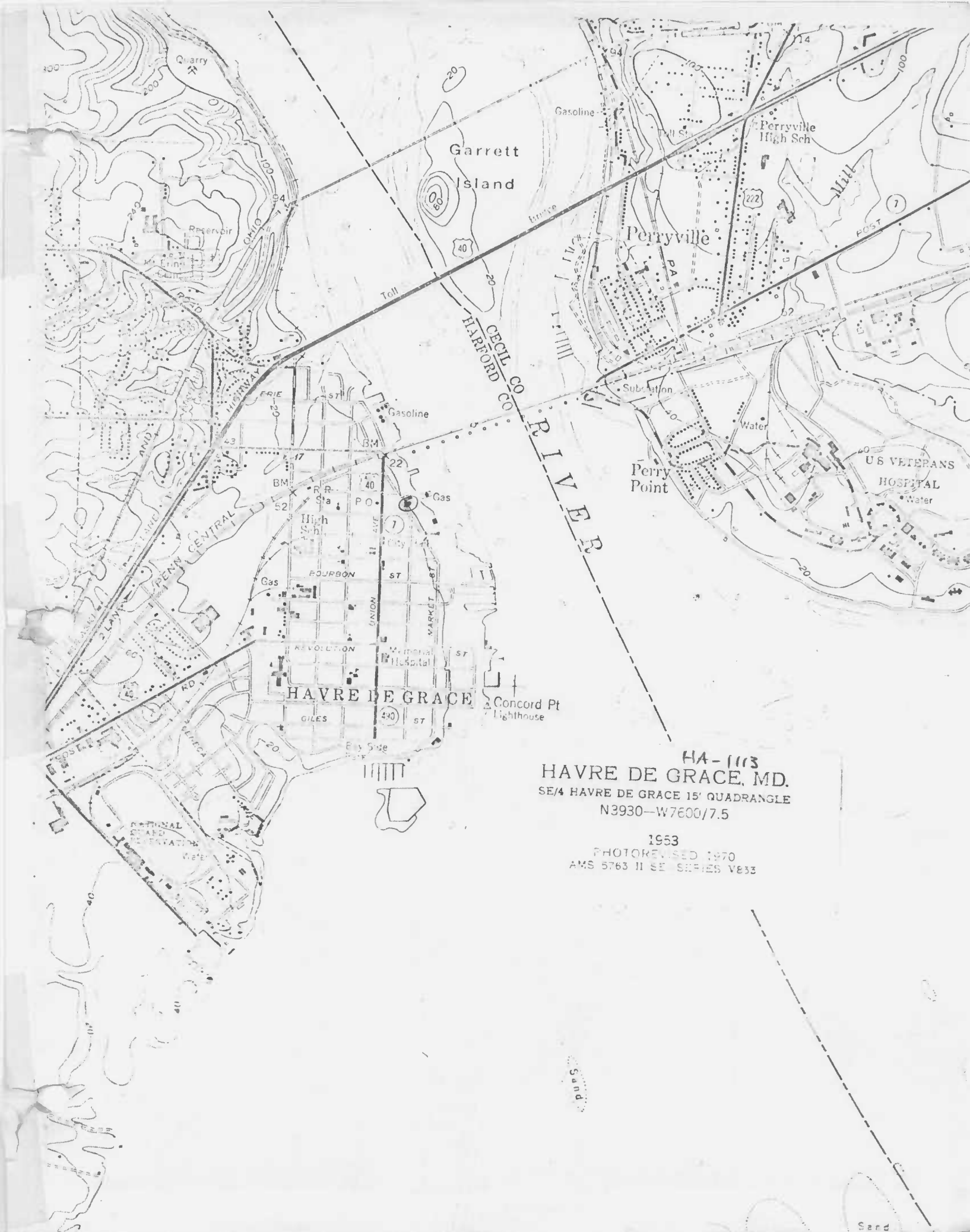
CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



HA-1113  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD.  
SE/4 HAVRE DE GRACE 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3930-W7600/7.5

1953  
PHOTO REVISÉ 1970  
AMS 5763 II SE SERIES V833



Old First National Bank Bldg.  
HA-1113

319 St. John St.

HARRE DE GRACE

Southwest Eler.

MARION MORTON

6/77





Old First National Bank HA-1113  
319 St. John St.  
Harre De Grace  
East Elevation  
Marion Morton 7/26/77.

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